

Appendix A23

Additional Users' Environment Information

A23.1 Educational Institutions

A23.1.1 Schools, Elementary and Secondary

Lead and the surrounding communities have public elementary and secondary schools for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition there are private schools in Rapid City, as noted in the detailed community breakdown provided below.

A23.1.2 Lead

The Lead School District was founded in 1895 and merged with the Deadwood School District in 1971. The Lead-Deadwood High School has 335 students in grades nine to twelve and the Lead-Deadwood Middle School has 246 students in grades six to eight.

A23.1.3 Deadwood

The Deadwood School District was founded in 1886, just ten years after gold was discovered in the area. As mentioned above, the Deadwood and Lead school districts were later combined, and the Lead-Deadwood Elementary School remained in Deadwood. Its student population is 375 students in grades PK-5.

A23.1.4 Spearfish

Spearfish has two elementary schools, West Elementary School with 441 students in grades PK-3 and East Elementary School with 408 students in grades three to five. Spearfish High School has 670 students in grades nine to twelve and Spearfish Middle School's enrollment is 484 students in grades six to eight.

A23.1.5 Meade County School District (Sturgis)

Although Meade County comprises 3,471 square miles, its population center is Sturgis, home of Brown High School with 837 students in grades nine to twelve, Williams Middle School with 680 students in grades five to eight, and Sturgis Elementary School with 551 students in grades PK-4.

A23.1.6 Hill City

Hill City has a new high school for its 215 students in grades nine to twelve. The Hill City Middle School has a student population of 124 students in grades six to eight and the Hill City Elementary School enrollment is 200 students in grades PK-5.

A23.1.7 Rapid City Area Public Schools

The Rapid City school district has 13,018 students with 16 elementary schools for grades PK-5, 5 middle schools for grades six to eight, two high schools serving grades nine to twelve and one academy, which is an alternative high school program.

A23.1.8 Private High Schools in Rapid City

Two private high schools in Rapid City are Rapid City Christian High School, with 137 students in grades seven to twelve, and St. Thomas More (Catholic) High School, with 537 students in grades PK-7.

A23.1.9 Private Elementary and Middle Schools in Rapid City

There are several private elementary and middle schools in Rapid City, including the Children's House Montessori for students PK-6, Saint Elizabeth Seton Catholic School with 537 students in grades PK-8, Calvary Christian School which serves 191 students in grades PK-8, Memorial Christian School with 130 students in grades PK-6, Zion Lutheran School with 113 students in grades PK-6, St. Paul's Lutheran School which has an enrollment of 86 students in grades K-8, and the Seventh Day Adventists School with 15 students in grades one to ten.

A23.1.10 Community Education

[Community Education of the Black Hills](#) is the largest adult education program of its type in South Dakota, with programs in Lead, Deadwood, Spearfish, Hill City and Rapid City. People within the communities teach the courses in art, cuisine, languages, history and exploration, finance, computers, and more. Classes consist of adults of all ages, talents, and ethnic diversity. They offer individuals, especially newcomers, the opportunity to meet people in the area, and to share a talent or expertise by teaching a class or to be a student.

A23.2 Recreation

The entire city of Deadwood, Lead's "sister city," is on the National Historic Register. Deadwood's history is currently being dramatized by the hit HBO television series "Deadwood." Deadwood is akin to Williamsburg, Virginia in terms of the public and private investment in its restoration. Funding for Deadwood's restoration is generated by a gaming tax passed by the South Dakota Legislature in 1990 specifically to restore the historic town. Eighty casinos, most of them open 24/7, offer Las Vegas style gaming, dozens of excellent restaurants with dining choices well beyond what one would expect of a community of this size. For example, [The Deadwood Thymes](#) is a 3 Diamond bistro, actor Kevin Costner owns a 4-Star restaurant called [Jake's Atop the Midnight Star](#), and the [Saloon #10](#) (noteworthy as the establishment where Wild Bill Hickok met his demise) and recently opened the Social Club, a fine dining facility. Gaming has also created a demand for upscale lodging including a [3 Diamond Hampton Inn](#), [3 Diamond AmericInn](#), a [4-Star Holiday Inn Express](#) and historic hotels including the Celebrity Inn and Suites and Hickok's Inn and Suites that offer luxury lodging. The Resort at Deadwood, a \$45 million hotel and convention center is set to open in 2008. Deadwood has 1,300 hotel rooms.

Deadwood's main street hosts many major events each year, including celebrations of Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day, Wild Bill Days, the Days of '76 Parade and Rodeo (named the Rodeo of the Year for the third consecutive year by the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association), Bike Rally, Kool Deadwood Nites (four day classic car event), [Deadwood Jam](#) (a music festival which has featured the Atlanta Rhythm Section, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Leon Russell and Michael Martin Murphy), and the Halloween celebration [Deadweird](#).

[The Golden Hills Resort](#) in Lead is under new management and is undergoing a major upgrade. The 100 room convention center has a restaurant, lounge and shuttle service to Deadwood.

Rapid City also has upscale lodging and restaurants and a vibrant arts community. There are 10,000 guest rooms in various hotels, motels and specialty resorts and lodges in the Black Hills. Of these, 4,298 rooms are in Rapid City. Elvis Presley, Margaret Thatcher, Dr. James D. Watson,

Ehud Barak, Dr. Jane Goodall, the Moody Blues, Dr. Carl Sagan and countless other leaders, scientists and performers have appeared on stage at The Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, which hosts the annual Vucurevich Lecture Series, the Broadway Play Series, the Black Hills Concert Association and the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra as well as other performances, sporting events including the Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo, professional basketball and indoor football.



Figure A23.1 Golden Hills Resort, located ~ 1 mile from Homestake Laboratory site.

The area attracts such a large number of performers because it is a stop-over for entertainment groups on national tours who are traveling between Minneapolis and Seattle on Interstate 90. Prices are generally well under the rates in major metropolitan areas.

A23.2.1 Recreational Fitness

Lead is surrounded by hundreds of miles of marked hiking trails, including the 110 mile Centennial Trail and the [Mickelson Trail](#) with its 109 miles of gorgeous scenery on a former railroad bed that winds through four hard rock tunnels and over 100 bridges, the perfect venue for hiking or bicycling. [The Mickelson Trail Trek](#) each autumn has become a nationally-known event with participants this year from 30 states. [The Black Hills Volkssport Association](#) has scheduled events throughout the year, the most prominent in conjunction with the [Volksmarch](#) at Crazy Horse Memorial each June. The 10k round trip attracts 15,000 walkers at the site near Custer.

Mountain biking is also a popular sport in the region. [Ridge Riders of the Black Hills Mountain Bike Club](#) hosts an annual 50 mile ride. Bicycle shops rent bicycles and provide shuttle service for visitors.

Winter sports enthusiasts can take advantage of 350 miles of groomed, marked snowmobile trails; [groomed cross country ski trails](#), and two downhill ski areas. They are [Terry Peak](#) at 7,100 foot elevation and a vertical drop of 1,100 feet and [Deer Mountain](#) which has a 6,850 foot summit for downhill skiing and snowboarding as well as groomed cross country trails. [The Black Hills Ski Club](#) promotes skiing and organizes ski trips. [The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks](#) oversees the snowmobile trails system and program.

Lead is the gateway to Spearfish Canyon National Scenic Byway through a canyon once owned by Homestake Mining Company. The Byway is now co-managed by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks and the United States Forest Service. Spearfish Canyon is an idyllic location for fly-fishing, a popular activity in the Black Hills. [The Black Hills Flyfishers](#) organization has dedicated labor and funds to habitat improvement projects, youth programs and seminars and has worked with the state Game Fish and Parks department on catch and release regulations which have led to the protection of wild rainbow trout.

The Northern Hills Family YMCA in Lead has a swimming pool, wading pool, whirlpool, sauna, weight room, aerobics/multi-purpose room, racquet ball court, walking track, roller skating, daycare, basketball, Camp Discovery, and special sports programs and classes.

[The Donald E. Young Sports and Fitness Center](#) on the Campus of Black Hills State University in Spearfish is a 172,000 square foot facility with a fitness center, gymnasium, aquatic center, and field house with track lanes and tennis courts. It serves the university and the community.

[The Rapid City YMCA](#) offers programs and services to meet physical, social, mental and spiritual needs. In addition to aquatic, basketball and various exercise programs for all ages, child care and teen programs, the YMCA recently acquired the [LaCroix Links Golf Course](#) and opened an [Arts & Science Center](#) for members. The YMCA operates three [Youth Outreach Centers](#) in the community. The YMCA occupies nearly an entire city block and is the city's largest provider of day care services.

In addition to parks, tennis courts and a 13.5 mile bicycle path that winds through the length of the city in a greenway alongside Rapid Creek, Rapid City has two outdoor aquatic fun parks, one large outdoor lap pool, and the new [Rapid City Swim Center](#). This is a new facility with an 8-lane lap pool, as well as vortex, zero depth and warm water spa pools.

A23.2.2 Golf

Golfers will find beautiful golf courses with reasonable fees throughout the Black Hills. Rapid City has two municipal courses, Meadowbrook Golf Course (an 18 hole championship facility) and LaCroix Links, as well as Arrowhead Country Club, Rapid City Elks Golf Course, and three privately owned facilities open to the public: Golf Club at Red Rock, Hart Ranch Golf Club, and Fountain Springs Golf Course. Four courses are in the Lead vicinity: the Lead Country Club, the Tomahawk Lake Country Club near Lead, Boulder Canyon Country Club between Deadwood and Sturgis and the Spearfish Canyon Golf Course.

A23.2.3 Health Clubs

There are several private health clubs including all-inclusive exercise programs and weight training, women's only clubs and yoga studios in the region which welcome guest visitors.

A23.2.4 Museums

[The Adams Museum](#) in Deadwood is the oldest history museum in the Black Hills. Barrick Gold Corporation recently donated the Homestake Collection from Homestake Mining Company in Lead to the museum. The collection consists of 10,000 cubic feet of records, including maps of the mine, blueprints and patents, glass negatives, mining production and scientific records and the Noble geological specimen collection.

[The Journey Museum](#) in Rapid City houses geology, paleontology, and archeology exhibits as well as the collection of the Sioux Indian Museum and the Minnilusa Pioneer Museum. Western Dakota native gardens surround the building.

[The Museum of Geology](#) on the campus of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City is a teaching and research facility with collections of 6,000 minerals and 250,000 vertebrate fossils, with emphasis on minerals and fossils of the Black Hills. Included are collections of gold and fluorescent minerals. The museum is actively involved with acquisition, curation, research and education.

Native Americans and "Old West Pioneers" of North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska are honored in the [High Plains Western Heritage Center](#) in five categories of pioneering: agriculture, logging, mining, transportation and Native American lore. The 17,000 square foot facility on 40 acres contains a wide range of western artifacts, and with its 200 seat theater provides a venue for community entertainment as well as education.

By its own account, the Black Hills Museum of Natural History in Hill City is a "fledgling" outgrowth of the [Black Hills Institute of Geological Research](#) in Hill City. The Institute is a paleontological and earth science organization which supplies professionally prepared fossils, fossil casts, and mineral specimens for research, teaching, and display. The facility houses the world's most extensive research collection of *T. rex* fossil material. The 25-year old Institute claims that its fossil collection, available to visiting researchers, is recognized as one of the world's finest collections.

[The Indian Museum of North America at Crazy Horse Memorial](#) contains art and artifacts of Native American people.

A23.2.5 Community Organizations and Cultural Entities

Because the Black Hills has historically attracted people from across the country, and more recently from around the world, its organizations reflect a diversity of interests. The Republican and Democratic parties have active organizations. The [Democracy in Action](#) organization holds forums to educate the community about issues. It is a non-partisan group of "women working for a better world" whose goal is an educated and participative democracy. [The Office of Multicultural Affairs at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology](#) sponsors social and cultural events and activities throughout the year to which the community is invited.

A23.2.6 Historic Deadwood Lead Arts Council

The arts have been important for the people of Lead since the city's early days. A theme of the [Deadwood Lead Arts Council](#) is the driving force behind community theater, monthly exhibits, children's programs, and art shows, including the fifth annual Neutrino Day art contest in February.

A23.2.7 Matthews Opera House, Spearfish

Having recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, the Matthews Opera House in Spearfish is an art and theater venue serving the northern Black Hills. The Matthews Opera House Society has undertaken restoration projects since 1989, and the building is now almost completely restored to its original grandeur. The Spearfish Center for the Arts sponsors community theater, a foreign film series, writers' and actors' workshops and children's theater workshops, provides art classes and supports the Matthews Opera House.

A23.2.8 Homestake Opera House

In 1911, Phoebe Apperson Hearst (wife of George Hearst of California who owned many mining interests in the West, including the Homestake Mine and who was the father of William Randolph Hearst who built the family's San Francisco Examiner into a publishing empire) joined with Homestake Mine Superintendent Thomas J. Grier to build the Lead Opera House as a gift to the citizens of Lead from the Homestake Mine. The complex included an opera house (a smaller version of the San Francisco Opera House), a bowling alley, swimming pool, library, billiards and social rooms. With the exception of the opera house itself, all of the other facilities were open to the public and free. In the years that followed, two major fires damaged the facility, but massive reconstruction plans and fundraising efforts are underway. A summer concert series, recitals, lectures, receptions, the Halloween Haunted House and the Festival of Trees fill the Opera House events calendar.

A23.2.9 Sturgis Center for the Arts

Acoustic instrument players are invited to Friday Night Jams held by the [Sturgis Center for the Arts](#), one of its many arts-related programs.

A23.2.10 The Dahl Fine Arts Center

[The Dahl Fine Arts Center](#) in Rapid City has a 156-seat theater, classroom space for arts education, and two art galleries. Plans are underway for a major expansion.

A23.2.11 Art Galleries

In addition to the Dahl Fine Arts Center galleries in Rapid City, the [Apex Gallery at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology](#) hosts educational and science exhibitions and showcases many art exhibits each year. [The Prairie Edge Gallery](#) offers a variety of fine art, including authentic Plains Indian art. [The Ruddell Gallery](#) at Black Hills State University in Spearfish hosts various exhibits throughout the year. Other popular galleries include Artforms Gallery and also the [Jon Crane Gallery](#) in Hill City and [Surroundings Gallery](#) in Custer.

A23.2.12 Community and University Theater

Community theater is alive and well in the area. Although the [Black Hills Community Theater](#) and its Cherry Street Players group for children in Rapid City are the largest of community theaters in the region, most of the towns have active theater groups. [The Black Hills Playhouse](#)

located in Custer State Park and operating in conjunction with the University of South Dakota, offers a summer season of plays that are popular with Black Hills residents and visitors. Productions at the Playhouse are on a par with that expected of excellent regional theater.

A23.2.13 Arts and Crafts Organizations

Arts and crafts organizations in the Black Hills include a variety such as the Dakota Artist Blacksmith Association and the Northern Plains Watercolor Society. A representative sampling includes the Black Hills Quilters Guild, The Black Hills Rosemaling Association, the Black Hills Rug Hookers, the Hay Camp Wood Carvers Association, the Lead-Deadwood Quilt Guild and the Paint and Fire China Club. The annual Festival in the Park held each July in Spearfish is a juried art and craft show that attracts 37,000 people. In addition to the vendors, there is a variety of musical entertainment.

A23.2.14 Musical Organizations

Scientists, staff and their families will find abundant opportunities to be a member of the audience or a performing musician. These are just some of the organizations that provide concerts throughout the year: Bells of the Hills Community Hand Bell Ensemble, the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra, Dakota Chamber Orchestra, Dakota Choral Union, New Horizons Band, (adults over 50 years of age), Northern Hills Barbershop Chorus, Seventh Cavalry Drum and Bugle Corps, Shrine of Democracy Barbershop Chorus, Sweet Adelines and the Spearfish (Piano) Duet Club (advanced pianists)

A23.2.15 Science and Nature Related Organizations

Several science and nature-related organizations are located in the Black Hills areas. They welcome new members. Among these are the [American Indian Science & Engineering Society](#), [Oglala Lakota College chapter](#), which promotes the advancement of Native Americans in the science, engineering and math fields. The chapter dedicates time to outreach programs in high schools and community involvement as well as clean-up events. [The Black Hills Astronomical Society](#) meets monthly at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and hosts summer star parties. [The Darton Geological Society](#), the [Black Hills Rocketry Club](#), the [Norbeck Society](#), which advocates for sustainable use of public lands, the Northern Hills Bird Club (through the Meade County Extension Office), the [Sierra Club](#), and the [Nature Conservancy](#) also welcome members.

A23.10 Religious Organizations

[Churches and religious organizations](#) in the Black Hills area include Christian, interdenominational, Mormon, Quaker (Society of Friends), Mother of Wisdom Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group, Laughing Teabowl Zendo (Zen Buddhist center) and [Jewish](#).